

The Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers For the Aging

Testimony to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding

In Support of Senate Bill 996, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Emergency Economic Investment Commission

Submitted on March 2, 2009

The Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging (CANPFA) is an organization of over 150 non-profit providers of aging services representing the full continuum of long term care providers, including affordable senior housing, adult day centers, assisted living agencies, home health care agencies, nursing homes, residential care homes and continuing care retirement communities. CANPFA is please to submit the following testimony in support of **Senate Bill 996, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Emergency Economic Investment Commission** and in particular, the proposed \$100 million in grant funding dedicated to housing.

The State of Connecticut has adopted a *Long Term Care Plan* that calls for a *balanced* system of aging services with a goal of decreasing dependence on nursing home care. CANPFA members believe that the **combination of affordable housing and supportive services** is a key component to any balanced system of long term care. Affordable housing with services is often the only alternative that low and moderate income seniors have to placement in a nursing home.

Older adults need to have the opportunity to remain in the towns and cities that they have lived in or to be near the families that they love. Unfortunately, many seniors in Connecticut cannot find decent housing at a cost they can afford, especially if they require adaptations to accommodate physical limitations or services to help them age in place. In fact, efforts to transition people to community-based settings in this state frequently are stymied by the lack of suitable and affordable housing. If the state truly wants to move toward providing a more balanced system of long term care, it needs to **invest** in affordable housing alternatives. The dedication of grant funding through this economic investment act would be just such an investment. Grant funding opportunities would be a tremendous resource for developers of affordable senior housing and for the communities that wish to provide that housing.

We would also encourage the use of a portion of the proposed \$50 million in grant funding for non-profit entities for the purpose of providing home and community based services that could be delivered to affordable senior housing residents who are aging in place.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Mag Morelli, President

CANPFA, 1340 Worthington Ridge, Berlin, CT 06037 (860)828-2903 morelli@canpfa.org